

Maryland Masonry NOCTI Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. What term refers to successive courses of masonry that project out from the face of the chimney?**
 - A. Bricks**
 - B. Corbel**
 - C. Coping**
 - D. Lintel**

- 2. What is the main measurement that a mason seeks to find when squaring a building?**
 - A. Length**
 - B. Diagonal measurement**
 - C. Width**
 - D. Height**

- 3. What is the term for block courses that allow one CMU wall to intersect another at a right angle?**
 - A. Alternating**
 - B. Layered**
 - C. Fortified**
 - D. Joined**

- 4. Which of the following conditions could worsen efflorescence on masonry walls?**
 - A. High ventilation**
 - B. Increased moisture in the environment**
 - C. High temperatures**
 - D. Low humidity**

- 5. Which tool is used to confirm 90-degree or square corners in masonry work?**
 - A. Framing square**
 - B. Level**
 - C. Chalk line**
 - D. Plumb bob**

- 6. What term is used to describe deposits of water-soluble salts on masonry walls?**
- A. Saltpeter**
 - B. Efflorescence**
 - C. Crystallization**
 - D. Granulation**
- 7. What machine is specifically designed for mixing mortar?**
- A. Concrete Mixer**
 - B. Mortar Mixer**
 - C. Drum Mixer**
 - D. Cement Mixer**
- 8. The term for the plot of ground where a project is to be constructed is known as what?**
- A. Site**
 - B. Foundation**
 - C. Parcel**
 - D. Zone**
- 9. What is the required volume of concrete calculated using a formula involving multiples of depth, width, and length?**
- A. Cubic footage**
 - B. Cubic yards**
 - C. Sack mix**
 - D. Surface area**
- 10. What is the method of picking up mortar and brick at the same time called?**
- A. Stack and lift**
 - B. Pick and dip**
 - C. Grab and go**
 - D. Load and place**

Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What term refers to successive courses of masonry that project out from the face of the chimney?

- A. Bricks
- B. Corbel**
- C. Coping
- D. Lintel

The term that refers to successive courses of masonry that project out from the face of the chimney is "corbel." Corbelling is a technique used in masonry construction where bricks or stones are laid in a way that each successive course steps out further from the structure. This method not only creates a decorative effect but also serves to support weight above the corbelled area. In the context of chimneys, corbelling can be used to create a wider top or to add visual interest to the structure. It is an ancient technique used in various architectural styles, and you will commonly see it in buildings where bricks or stones are stacked to form arches, ledges, or even decorative elements on the façade. The other terms, while related to masonry, do not describe this specific architectural feature. Bricks are the individual units used in masonry, coping refers to the protective cap on top of a wall or chimney, and a lintel is a structural element placed over doorways and windows to support the weight of the masonry above.

2. What is the main measurement that a mason seeks to find when squaring a building?

- A. Length
- B. Diagonal measurement**
- C. Width
- D. Height

When squaring a building, the primary measurement that a mason needs to determine is the diagonal measurement. This method relies on creating a right angle between the walls and ensures that the structure is perfectly square. To check for squareness, the mason often utilizes the Pythagorean theorem, which states that in a right triangle, the square of the length of the hypotenuse (the diagonal measurement) is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides. By measuring the diagonals of the building plot, the mason can verify that both diagonals are equal; this indicates that the corners are at right angles and that the layout is square. Thus, focusing on diagonal measurement is crucial for ensuring accuracy and stability in the construction process.

3. What is the term for block courses that allow one CMU wall to intersect another at a right angle?

- A. Alternating**
- B. Layered**
- C. Fortified**
- D. Joined**

The term that accurately describes block courses designed for one Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) wall to intersect another at a right angle is "joined." This terminology is used in masonry to refer to how blocks are connected at corners or intersections, ensuring structural integrity and alignment. In masonry practice, "joined" masonry often involves specific techniques and bonding patterns that facilitate a strong connection between intersecting walls, contributing to the overall stability of the structure. This method is crucial for managing load distribution and preventing structural weaknesses at these intersections. The other terms don't accurately represent this specific configuration. For instance, "alternating" might refer to a pattern of laying blocks that alternates courses or rows, but it does not specifically pertain to the right-angle intersections of walls. "Layered" generally relates to different levels or layers used in construction rather than the joining of walls. "Fortified" typically implies additional structural support or enhancement, which is not directly related to the intersection of CMU walls at right angles. Thus, "joined" is the most appropriate term in this context.

4. Which of the following conditions could worsen efflorescence on masonry walls?

- A. High ventilation**
- B. Increased moisture in the environment**
- C. High temperatures**
- D. Low humidity**

Efflorescence on masonry walls occurs when moisture inside the masonry dissolves soluble salts and brings them to the surface as it evaporates. Increased moisture in the environment is a significant factor that can exacerbate this process. When the humidity levels are high or there is excess moisture in the air, it raises the water content in the masonry itself. This additional moisture can lead to more significant leaching of salts as compared to dryer conditions. Consequently, the presence of increased moisture can facilitate the movement of water and salts to the surface, creating a more pronounced efflorescence effect. Thus, understanding the relationship between environmental moisture and efflorescence is crucial for masonry maintenance and prevention strategies.

5. Which tool is used to confirm 90-degree or square corners in masonry work?

- A. Framing square**
- B. Level**
- C. Chalk line**
- D. Plumb bob**

The framing square is the correct tool for confirming 90-degree or square corners in masonry work. This tool, also known as a carpenter's square, has two legs that form a right angle, allowing masons to easily check and mark right angles on various surfaces. It is particularly useful in laying out walls and ensuring that corners are square, which is essential for structural integrity and aesthetics in masonry projects. Using a framing square helps ensure that all masonry units are aligned properly, which contributes to the overall quality and stability of the construction. In addition, this tool can be used for measuring and cutting, providing versatility in masonry tasks alongside its primary function of checking square corners.

6. What term is used to describe deposits of water-soluble salts on masonry walls?

- A. Saltpeter**
- B. Efflorescence**
- C. Crystallization**
- D. Granulation**

The term "efflorescence" specifically refers to the formation of deposits of water-soluble salts on masonry surfaces, resulting from water evaporating from the surface and leaving behind these salts. This process typically occurs in porous materials, such as brick, stone, or concrete, when moisture is present. When water moves through the masonry, it can dissolve salts found within the material or from the surrounding soil. As the water evaporates, it causes the salts to crystallize on the surface, creating a white, powdery appearance. Therefore, efflorescence is a common issue in masonry construction and signifies moisture movement, which can indicate underlying problems regarding water intrusion or inadequate drainage. Understanding this process is crucial for anyone working with masonry, as it can affect both the aesthetic and structural integrity of the walls.

7. What machine is specifically designed for mixing mortar?

- A. Concrete Mixer
- B. Mortar Mixer**
- C. Drum Mixer
- D. Cement Mixer

The machine specifically designed for mixing mortar is the mortar mixer. This type of mixer is optimized to create a consistent and smooth mixture that is ideal for masonry work, particularly when working with materials like bricks and blocks. Mortar mixers typically have features that allow for the proper blending of sand, cement, and water, ensuring that the final product has the right texture and workability for applying to masonry surfaces. Mortar mixers often have a specific design that facilitates mixing without overworking the material, which is crucial in achieving the desired properties of the mortar. While other mixers, like concrete mixers and cement mixers, can blend mixtures that include mortar, they are generally not tailored to the specific requirements related to mortar consistency and mixing techniques. As a result, using a mortar mixer is preferred when the primary task involves preparing mortar for masonry applications.

8. The term for the plot of ground where a project is to be constructed is known as what?

- A. Site**
- B. Foundation
- C. Parcel
- D. Zone

The term "site" refers to the specific location or plot of ground designated for construction activities. In the context of masonry and construction, the site encompasses the area where building materials will be arranged, structures erected, and various elements related to the project put in place. Understanding this term is crucial for planning and development, as it involves considerations such as the land's topography, soil conditions, and regulations that may affect construction. Other options may signify different aspects related to the project but do not specifically refer to the location of the construction itself. For instance, "foundation" typically refers to the part of the building that supports the structure above, while "parcel" more commonly relates to a specific piece of land but isn't as widely used as "site" in construction terminology. "Zone" can refer to zoning regulations governing land use, but again, it doesn't convey the idea of the physical space where the construction occurs. Thus, "site" is the most precise term for the plot of ground where a project is to be constructed.

9. What is the required volume of concrete calculated using a formula involving multiples of depth, width, and length?

- A. Cubic footage**
- B. Cubic yards**
- C. Sack mix**
- D. Surface area**

The volume of concrete is typically calculated using the formula that involves multiplying the depth, width, and length of the area to be filled. The result of this calculation provides the volume in cubic units. When dealing with construction projects, especially in the context of concrete, the standard metric used to express volume is cubic yards. This unit is particularly relevant because it aligns with how concrete is commonly sold and delivered to job sites, facilitating ordering and mixing processes. Using cubic footage would also give a correct measurement but is less practical for larger construction projects where conversions to cubic yards are necessary for material estimation. Sack mix refers to a pre-packaged concrete mix and doesn't pertain to volume measurements, while surface area pertains to the area of a two-dimensional space and is not representative of volume. Therefore, knowing that concrete volume needs to be expressed in cubic yards is crucial for proper project planning and execution.

10. What is the method of picking up mortar and brick at the same time called?

- A. Stack and lift**
- B. Pick and dip**
- C. Grab and go**
- D. Load and place**

The method of picking up mortar and brick simultaneously is known as "pick and dip." This technique involves using a trowel or a similar tool to scoop mortar while simultaneously acquiring a brick, which allows for efficient handling during masonry work. This approach is crucial for speed and ensuring that the mortar is adequately applied to the brick as it is placed. In masonry, minimizing movement and maximizing efficiency translates to better productivity, and the pick and dip method is specifically designed to facilitate this. By combining the actions of picking mortar and bricks in one motion, the mason can ensure a quicker and more seamless workflow on the job site. This makes it a favored technique among experienced masons who are skilled at coordinating their movements to complete tasks with precision and speed.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://mdmasonrynocti.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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